

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

IN RE: APPLICATION FOR DESIGNATION AS AN ELIGIBLE TELECOMMUNICATIONS  
CARRIER FOR LOW INCOME SUPPORT IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND FILED BY  
HUGHES NETWORK SYSTEMS LLC – DOCKET NO. 5126

**NOTICE TO SOLICIT COMMENTS**

Pursuant to the provisions of the R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 39-1-1, 39-2-5(9)(i), and 47 U.S.C. §§151–760, the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) will accept written public comments regarding the Application for Designation as an Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in the state of Rhode Island for the purpose of offering broadband and Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) service to qualified households filed by Hughes Network Systems, LLC (Company) on February 10, 2021. The Company seeks ETC designation as a high cost eligible carrier in order to receive funding from the federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF) to offer subsidized broadband and VoIP service to eligible low-income consumers in the state of Rhode Island.

In this docket, the PUC will examine the propriety of the Company’s application to make a determination that the Company has met the statutory and regulatory requirements to be designated as an ETC to receive funding from the available federal universal support mechanism and has complied with the PUC’s Rules Governing the Certification and Verification Procedures for Telecommunications Carriers Eligible to Receive Payments From the Federal Universal Service Fund.

Interested parties and members of the public may file written comments regarding the Company’s application by **4:00 P.M. on March 31, 2021** to Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk, Public Utilities Commission, 89 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, R.I. 02888 or by email to [luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov](mailto:luly.massaro@puc.ri.gov).

The petition may be examined at the PUC’s office. The application can also be accessed at <http://www.ripuc.ri.gov/eventsactions/docket/5126page.html>. Reference is made to R.I.G.L. §§ 39-1, 39-3 and 42-35.

Luly E. Massaro, Commission Clerk  
March 11, 2021